



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Overview and Audit Committee, 8 November 2023

**Report title:** Corporate Risk Management

**Lead Member:** Councillor Gary Hall, Health, Safety and Corporate Risk

**Report sponsor:** Graham Britten, Director of Legal & Governance

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**Action:** Decision

**Recommendations:**

1. That the status of identified corporate risks at Annex C be reviewed and approved.
2. That comments be provided to officers for consideration and attention in future updates / reports.

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**Executive summary:**

This report provides an update on the current status of identified corporate risks. Risk registers are maintained at project, departmental and directorate levels. Corporate risks are those that have been escalated from these levels for scrutiny by the Strategic Management Board (SMB) because of their magnitude, proximity or because the treatments and controls require significant development.

Officers draw on a range of sources to assist with the identification and evaluation of corporate risks. For example, membership of the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (TVLRF)'s Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) facilitates active monitoring of a range of risks with the potential for impacts on local communities and services.

Involvement with the Local Resilience Forum directly links officers into national Government agencies and departments such as the UK Health Security Agency and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This allows the sharing of intelligence and information with those who are making decisions at the very highest levels.

The TVLRF SCG enables its partners to jointly develop combined responses to civil emergencies, and strategic consequence management. This multi-agency partnership approach helps target activity directly to the needs of the public.

The Corporate Risk Register was last reviewed by the Overview and Audit Committee at its 19 July 2023 meeting. Since then, it has been subject to review by the Performance Monitoring Board (PMB), at which all the directorate and departmental risk registers are reviewed, and by SMB at its monthly meetings. Also, Lead Members

have been consulted during the evaluation process for risks falling within their portfolios of responsibility.

Since the last Overview and Audit Committee review, the Corporate Risk Register has been updated to reflect:

- In relation to the Workforce Availability / Stability risk, ongoing progress with recruitment and, in particular, the achievement of an operational wholetime establishment of 314 against the target of 300, facilitating a reduction to the probability risk score resulting in a move from red to amber RAG status;
- In relation to the third party industrial relations risk, the settlement of the teaching unions' pay dispute and ongoing strike action in the NHS;
- Regarding information management / security, the introduction of the Data Protection and Digital Information (No.2) Bill intended to reduce compliance costs relative to preceding legislation;
- Regarding the McCloud / Sargeant pensions risk, the regulations relating to the Matthews RDS (On-Call) case coming into force from 1st October 2023. The Authority and the pension administrator will work through the prospective cases and process them in a timely manner in line with the regulations;
- Regarding the climate change related risk, operational preparedness now focusing on forthcoming winter pressures, in particular flooding. Training for wildfire vehicle provision continues in preparation for next year;
- Progress in relation to the HMICFRS Values and Culture Recommendations, including:
  - Achievement of the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion (ENEI) Talent Inclusion and Diversity Evaluation (TIDE) Silver standard for 23/24; and also, 'White Ribbon' accreditation;
  - Following changes to legislation, DBS process for all staff underway;
  - Roll out of the 'Speak up' campaign;
  - 360 feedback trial with SMT complete and now being rolled out to the wider leadership team.

The current distribution of corporate risks relative to probability and potential impact is shown at Appendix 1.

Changes to the corporate risk ratings over the last 12 months are shown at Appendix 2.

Detailed assessments of identified corporate risks are shown in the Corporate Risk Register at Appendix 3.

The next Overview and Audit Committee review is scheduled for 13 March 2024, preceded by review at the 20 February 2024 SMB meeting.

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## **Financial implications:**

No direct financial implications arising from the presentation of this report. It is envisaged that the further development of the Authority's corporate risk management framework will be undertaken from within agreed budgets.

**Risk management:**

The development, implementation and operation of effective corporate risk management structures, processes and procedures are considered critical to assure continuity of service to the public, compliance with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements and the successful delivery of the Authority's strategic aims, priorities and plans.

**Legal implications:**

None directly arising from this report. Any legal consequences associated with the crystallisation of individual risks are detailed in the Risk Register report at Appendix 3.

Within the role description of a Lead Member is a requirement 'to attend the Overview and Audit Committee, at its request, in connection with any issues associated with the portfolio which is the subject of scrutiny'.

**Privacy and security implications:**

None directly arising from the presentation of this report. However, potential risks to privacy and security together with mitigating actions are captured within applicable risk evaluations.

**Duty to collaborate:**

The potential to share corporate risk intelligence with neighbouring fire and rescue services and other relevant agencies will be considered. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority already participates in the multi-agency Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum which produces a Community Risk Register which is among the sources used to identify potential risks to the Authority.

**Health and safety implications:**

Development of the framework does not impact directly on the legal compliance to health and safety, however if risks are not appropriately identified or evaluated then this may present Health and Safety risks.

**Environmental implications:**

None directly arising from the presentation of this report. However, potential environmental implications together with mitigating actions are captured within applicable risk evaluations.

**Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:**

No direct implications from the presentation of this report. However, risks to achieving the Authority's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives or compliance with relevant statutes or regulations are identified assessed and managed via this process and are currently monitored within the HR Risk Register. Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken on strategies, change, procedures and projects.

### Consultation and communication:

Senior managers and principal officers are key stakeholders in the development of the corporate risk management framework and have an active role in this at every stage as well as in ongoing identification, evaluation and monitoring of corporate risks. The Lead Member for Health, Safety and Corporate Risk is also be involved in the development of the framework with particular responsibility for determining the reporting arrangements for the Authority.

### Background papers:

The current Corporate Risk Management Policy was approved at the 24 March 2021 Executive Committee:

<https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2021/03/ec-240321-item-5.pdf/>

Fire Authority Members were last updated on the status of the Authority's Corporate Risks at the 19 July 2023 Overview and Audit Committee meeting:

[bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2023/07/overview-and-audit-committee-19-july-2023-item-14-corporate-risk-management.pdf/](https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2023/07/overview-and-audit-committee-19-july-2023-item-14-corporate-risk-management.pdf/)

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Distribution of Corporate Risks as at 17 October 2023.	None
2	12 Month View of Changes to Corporate Risks	None
3	Corporate Risk Register Report	None